

Message Text

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46

ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 INR-07 IO-11 MED-02

NSAE-00 PA-01 DHA-02 SCA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 CIAE-00

HEW-02 AID-05 FDRE-00 DODE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 H-02 SAJ-01

/086 W

----- 048717

R 121003Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9807

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMCONSUL POZNAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, UR

SUBJECT: FOREIGN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL ACTIVITY: USSR

1. IN INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS FOLLOWING MEETINGS AT MINISTRY OF HEALTH, SCICOUNS WAS INFORMED THAT AN INFLUENZA STRAIN OF "PARTICULARLY HIGH MORBIDITY" HAS WORKED ITS WAY ACROSS SOVIET UNION FROM JAPAN AND IS NOW "SPILLING OVER" INTO POLAND AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA. MINHEALTH OFFICIALS REFERRED TO OUTBREAK AS "AN EPIDEMIC." IN RESPONSE TO SCICOUNS'S REQUESTS FOR FIGURES ON INCIDENCES, MINHEALTH OFFICIALS SAID THAT SPECIAL COMMISSION HAS BEEN CALLED CONCERNING THIS DISEASE, AND THAT EMBASSY WILL BE PROVIDED DATA WHEN IT IS AVAILABLE.

2. SOVIET MEDIA HAVE CARRIED SOME REPORTS OF INFLUENZA, WITH WARNING THAT RISK OF PNEUMONIA IS HEIGHTENED AND THAT THERE HAVE OCCURRED ASSOCIATED DEATHS, ESPECIALLY AMONG AGED AND VERY YOUNG.

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3. EMBASSY HAS NOTED THAT NUMBER OF ABSENCES ATTRIBUTED TO

ILLNESS IN SOVIET BUREAUCRACY HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLY HIGHER THAN
WOULD BE EXPECTED, EVEN GIVEN THE RECENT COLD WEATHER.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
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